10/23/71

Dear Dick,

The yellow on the reverse sideof this paper is not the result of some special, secret-police treatment. I have been given an entire carton of out-of-date Ozalid paper, and that saves buying any except for fancy letters and final copies of ms's.

You did nothave time toget a copy of the local paper because the girls came to take you to the airport. I don't know whether you were being polite of whether you really wanted to see the reaction of the local paper to your appearance in this stronghold of reaction. Therefore, I send it.

The vini and vidi are nothing to the vici reflected in the next day's editorial, also enclosed. Remember, this is a Bitcher paper. When they editorialize like this, brother, you are getting through! I regard both the story and the editorial as not inconsiderable proofs that you are crossing all political lines and prejudices.

You were obviously tired, hence there are a couple of things I didn't go into. One in particular interests me, your offhand comment that the real shooter in the King assassination was subsequently killed in Birmingham. I know you wont take time to write me, but if you could find time to sit down at a tape recorder, any kind, any speed, the first you see when you have a free moment, and tell me whatever you know, it could be of some importance. Your own arcane sciences tell you that I am psychic or have certain such powers. Well, please take it on this basis or on faith that this can be important in ways you can't understand (and I'm not off on a save-James-Earl-Ray kick). I don't care how inconsequential the detail, if you remember it, please include it. And if there is anything that I should keep to myself to protect your source, please tell me that, too.

If there is no hazard to your source, I'd like much to be in touch with him or her. This exactly coincides with an important thing, something I picked up separately quite some timeago.

Many legal precedents are involved in the Ray case. What happens in it can have a serious effect on the rights of others. This may not be readily apparent to you, but it is not only the fact but it is worrying federal authority very, very much. Thus the stout effort to deny him a trial, even an evidentiary hearing to determine whether he enjoyed all his legal rights or whether he is now entitled to a trial. They don't dare let him go to trial, which is a separate matter, because there is no chance of convicting him. My investigation has gone much further than the book reflects. They, if he should come to trial and get acquitted, he is immune to further prosecution under the provisions of the extradition treaty, and here also there would be a series of legal precedents of potentially great importance to others, especially voluntary or forced exiles. To put it another way, the defense of Ray is really the defense of all minorities who suffer legal persecution and provides an exceptionally promising means of establishing these rights.

Hope you find the time to return for a few days of relaxation, as you hoped.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg